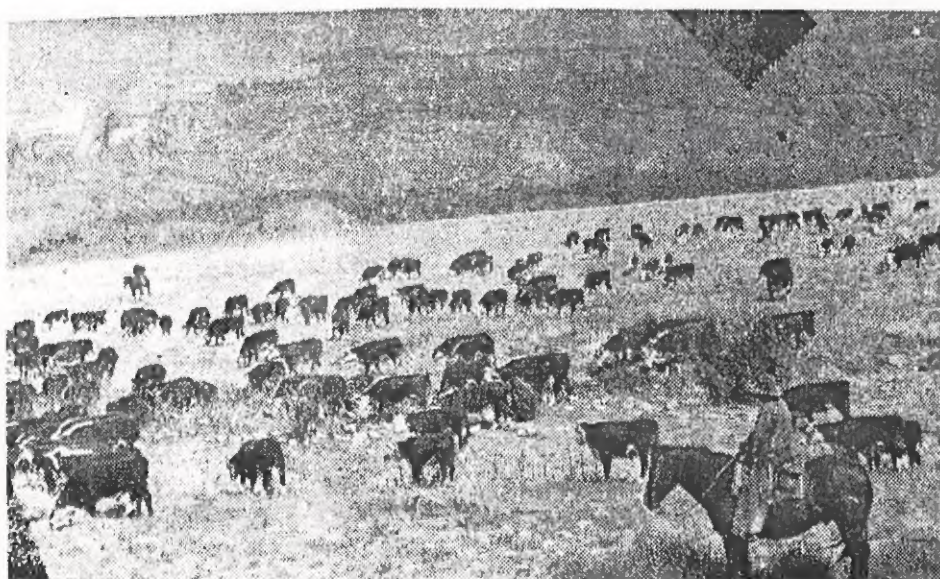




The Chuck Wagon



Cattle on the open range

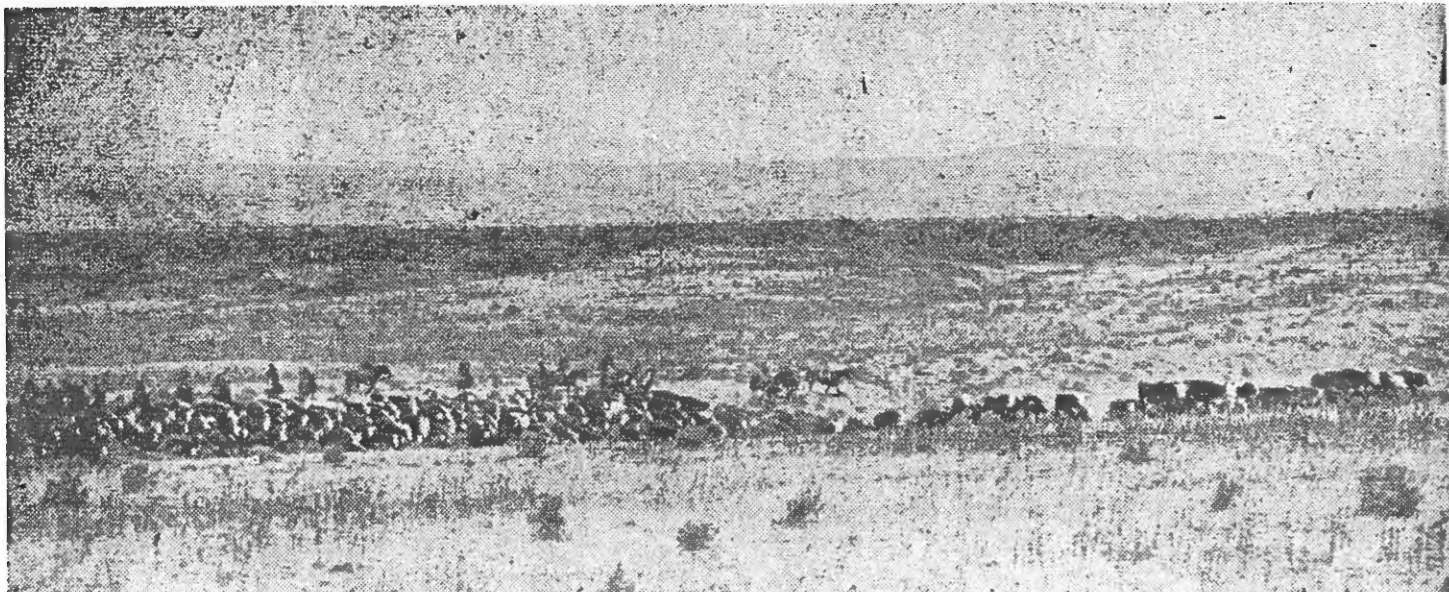
CATTLE ON THE RANGE

This practice of turning cattle onto the range harbored the cattle rustlers and the notorious gangs, such as Butch Cassidy. Butch Cassidy earned the reputation of being the cleverest and most generous outlaw of the West. Born down in Circleville of decent parents, he was named

George LeRoy Parker, the son of Maxie Parker who owned a ranch.

When yarns were swapped, anyone whose eyes had rested on Butch Cassidy or was glorified by talking to him could puff out his chest, punch his thumbs into the arm-eye of his vest, and heroize with his choice bit.

others



Round-up

CATTLE BRANDS

Rounding up the cattle from the range and bringing them into the Christenburg ranch, where all unbranded stock were marked, was a big job and required hard riding.

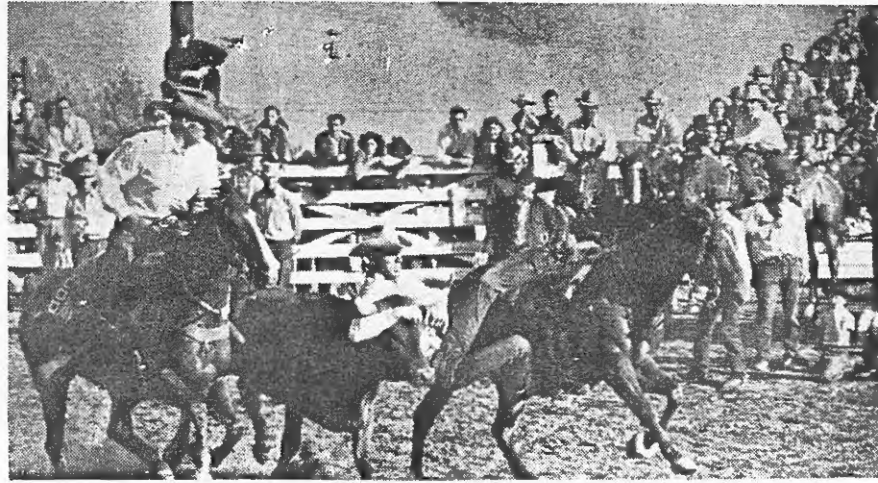
An open cedar fire was used to heat the brands that were brought to a red-hot glow ready to rush to the calf. The calf was lassoed and dropped to the ground near the fire, tied front legs forward, making a stretch of the calf's body to the hind legs, and pinned to the ground securely. Swiftly the red-hot iron scorched the brand either on the left shoulder, ribs, or hip, into the skin, then a searing iron was run over the brand to mark the calf for life.

The bawling calf got the works — branded on the body, and the ear was marked with a sharp knife. The ears were cut, slashed, notched,

or cropped according to the owner's pattern. Often earmarks were easier to be seen than brands.

The finished calf was hustled off to the herd to be with its mother.

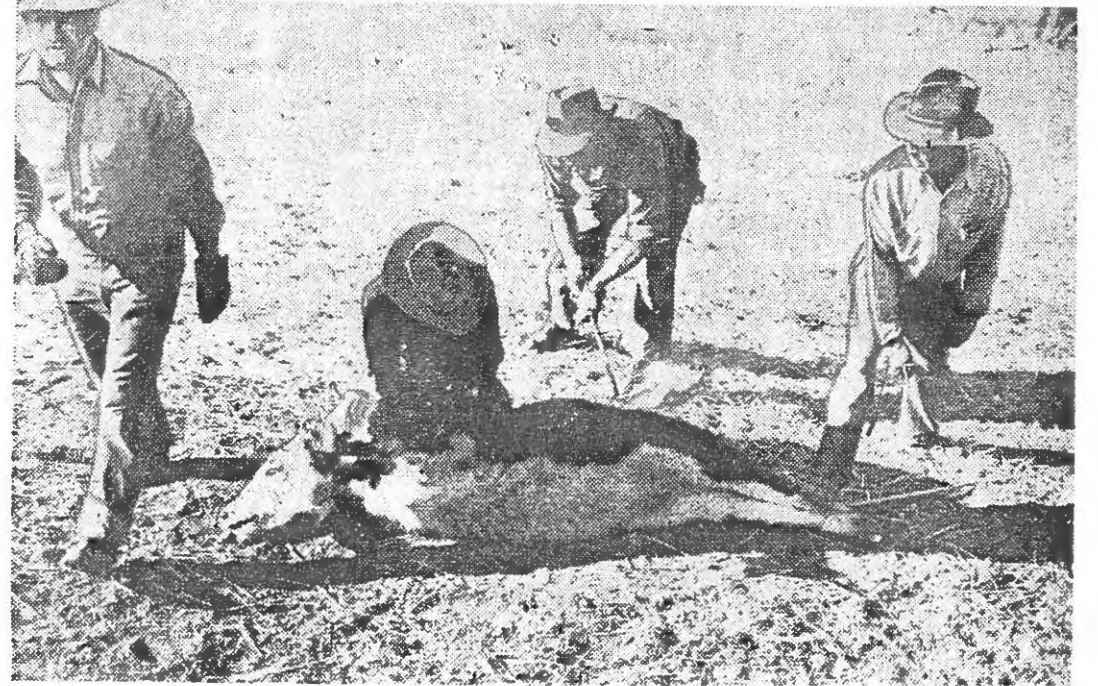
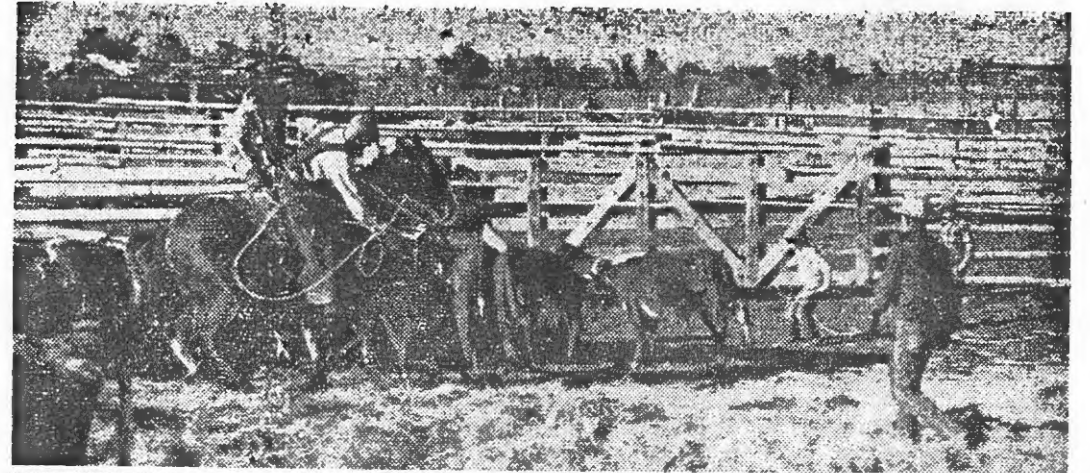
In a big round-up all hands worked hard to segregate the cattle into groups. Before branding began there were fires on the flat, and in each fire lay the branding irons. A roper mounted on a "cutting" horse, rode as quietly as could be into the herd, set his horse on a calf, and noted the brand on the cow it followed. The horse was trained to "cut" the calf from the herd. At once the rider flipped a loop to snag the calf by head or heels — in either case the animal was flattened when it reached the end of the rope fastened firmly to the saddle horn. Each "critter" received the brand that marked the maternal parent.



STEER WRESTLING FATHER OF RODEO

Horses are like people. Some are dumbbells and others are smart. In the early days, Dad had pasture parties after the round-up and branding of cattle and horses where there was wrangling of horses and cattle—ending in bronco

busting and lariat artistry in a corral of horses and steers. The well-known Maud Nay brothers, Jack Chew and others were deep-dyed in the lore of steer wrestling — the forerunner of the rodeo.



Roping a calf